

WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department

United States of America

In the matter of the imprisonment, : Perpetration of the testi-
under improper conditions, of civ- : mony of John Robert de Lara,
ilian internees by the Japanese at : Civilian
the Footung Internment Camp, Shanghai, :
China, between February 15, 1943 and :
August 1945 :

Taken at: 1270 Avenue of the Americas, (Room 803A),
New York 20, N.Y.

Date: 15 February 1946

In the presence of: Arthur F. Vedder, Special Agent, 1251
S.C.U., F.P.I. Sec., Intel. Br., Sec.
and Intel. Div., H2. 2nd S.C., 1270
Avenue of the Americas, New York 20, N.Y.

Reporter: Arthur F. Vedder, Special Agent.

Questions by: Arthur F. Vedder, Special Agent.

Q Please state your name, occupation, and permanent home address.

A John Robert de Lara. Prior to my internment by the Japanese I was Assistant Manager in Shanghai, China, for the American Foreign Insurance Association. I am now with the Standard Oil Company and expect to be assigned to the Netherlands West Indies. My permanent home address is - 2346 North El Molino Avenue, Altadena, California.

Q When and where were you born and what is your marital status?

A I was born in Mexico City, 8 January 1907. I am a United States citizen, and I am unmarried.

Q What formal schooling have you had?

A I received a B.S. in Business Administration at the University of Southern California in 1933, and an M.A. at the University of Southern California in 1936, and an M.B.A. at Harvard University in 1936.

Q Did you recently return to the United States from overseas?

A I arrived at San Francisco, California, in the first part of November 1945 approximately, on the U.S.S. "Lavea".

Q Were you a civilian internee of the Japanese?

A Yes. I was taken in custody by the Japanese on 15 February 1943, and was incarcerated in what the Japanese called "Footung Civil Assembly Center", at Footung, China, across the river from Shanghai. I was held there until liberated at the end of the war in August 1945.

Q What did you do prior to February 15, 1943 and since the beginning of the war between Japan and America?

A We were all free to go and come in Shanghai, under various restrictions, excepting those against whom the Japanese had special grievances.

Q What quarters were furnished you at the Postung Internment Camp?

A For living quarters we were assigned to what had formerly been tobacco warehouses, owned by the British-American Tobacco Company. These buildings had formerly been condemned by this company as inadequate and unsafe for the storage of tobacco. They were very old buildings.

Q Were the buildings outfitted by the Japanese for living quarters?

A No, they were empty buildings when we moved in, and anything that we had there in the line of bedding and furniture was all brought in by us. We often had to bring the chairs in.

Q What were the sanitary facilities at this camp?

A We were not too badly off in that regard. For two rooms, in which were assigned about two hundred people, we had three toilets. This made a difficult situation as a great many people were ill from food poisoning and were afflicted with various forms of digestive disturbances.

Q What bathing facilities were furnished?

A We had seven showers for approximately one thousand one hundred (1,100) internees and many times two or three of them would be out of condition.

Q Were the heating facilities adequate?

A For the winters of 1944 and 1945 we had no heat whatsoever. The temperature went as low as 20° F. in our camp. During our incarceration Shanghai had one of the hardest winters in fifty or sixty years. A reservoir within the compound froze solid. During the first weeks of our imprisonment, in the winter of 1943, we did have a stove.

Q Were complaints made to the Japanese authorities regarding this situation?

A Yes. Our camp representatives made efforts to obtain heating facilities, but the Japanese commandant informed them that they were not available.

Q Did the Japanese guards have heating facilities?

A Yes, they had coal stoves in their guard houses.

Q Were the internees furnished with adequate clothing?

A The Japanese provided no clothing. All we had was what we brought to the camp with us and what the American Red Cross sent in on two shipments. Many people could not afford clothing, because of the exorbitant prices, and did not have it when they went into the camp. There was a particular need for proper shoes and warm socks.

Q Will you describe the food rations furnished the internees?

A At first they furnished enough food to maintain the health of the internees, but they kept reducing the rations until at last we were getting one-fourth of meat of what we were receiving at the beginning of our internment. They would run out of rice, which was the mainstay of our diet and all they would furnish us from time to time would be flour, from which we made biscuits.

Q Do you know whether the Japanese were able to obtain sufficient food for the internees?

A The Japanese Army provided the food and they had it for themselves; they were able to commandeer it.

Q Will you describe what the ration was during the last year of your internment?

A About a year before the war ended the ration was reduced below the standard necessary to maintain health. We received no breakfast. The other meals were inadequate and we were always hungry. I was fortunate in that I had a friend on the outside who sent me ten-pound food packages once a month, but that would last me only four or five days.

Q Did you lose any weight as a result of this diet?

A I lost about ten or fifteen pounds from a normal weight of about 158 pounds. I did not lose as much weight as many of the internees, as I have always been thin. I am 6' tall. However, losing those ten or fifteen pounds put me in such condition that I was too weak to exercise. Some of the internees lost as much as sixty pounds.

Q Will you describe a typical meal at the camp?

A In the last year for lunch we would receive about a coffee cupful of rice. This rice was not the clean white rice that we are accustomed to in this country, but apparently consisted of the sweepings and the rice contained much foreign material, such as dirt and grit, which it was impossible to separate from the edible portions. They would also give us bread which our doctors in the camp analyzed and found to be made from a soybean residue, which contained practically no food value. It would crumble as we tried to cut it and other times it would be sticky and of such glue-like consistency that we would be unable to eat it. Along with this they would give us a watery stew which could easily be contained on an ordinary dinner plate. An internee would be fortunate if there was a piece of water buffalo meat in that stew as big as the end of a man's thumb. In the evening, for dinner, we would receive exactly the same menu, - it never varied, unless they ran out of one of the ingredients I have mentioned, for almost a year they gave us no beverage at all. They doled out a month's supply of sugar, each month, which amounted to about two and one-half tablespoonsful.

Q Did you have any way to supplement your diet, other than personal contributions from friends?

A At first we had a canteen in the camp which was pretty good, and we were allowed \$8.00 United States money to purchase food at this canteen. As time went on the Japanese so manipulated the various currency exchange values involved, so that finally our \$8.00 got us practically nothing at the canteen and, during the last year, we had no canteen.

Q Were the medical treatment and facilities furnished the internees adequate?

A We were fortunate in that we had four or five doctors of our own, but it was difficult for them to get medicines and equipment. All they had was what the American Red Cross had sent in. The Japanese furnished no medicine or supplies. After the first six months the only dentists we had in the camp were repatriated. After that occurred the Japanese dentist came to the camp once a week, but there were so many waiting for appointments that one would have to wait nine months to see this dentist. Finally this dentist stopped coming and the only one we had to take care of the teeth was an oil engineer, who gained his knowledge solely from observing the Japanese dentist's work.

- A There was a hospital across river from camp but I have been informed that it was operated under very unsatisfactory conditions. I understand they had no nurses at the hospital and the patients were obliged to care for one another.

Q Who were your camp representatives?

- A At first our American representative was Bill Ryan of the Chase National Bank. He was repatriated in 1943 and we were then represented by a Mr. Milton Bates, who was employed by the National City Bank. He was our representative until near the end of the imprisonment. The last representative was George Loocock, who had been acting treasurer of St. John's University in Shanghai.

Q Who was the Japanese commandant of the camp?

- A His name was Tsuchiya. He was a representative of the Japanese Consulate and had been assigned to the branch of that office in Shanghai. He was in charge of that camp for about three-fourths of the time. I don't think he was responsible for conditions in the camp. I don't recall the name of the Japanese commandant who succeeded him.

Q Is there any other item of mistreatment of the internees that you care to comment on?

- A Yes. We were exposed to possible air attack due to the fact that there were legitimate military objectives adjacent to the camp. They had troops quartered in a building next to us which I observed. About fifty feet down the road there was an entrance to a building, through which I observed Japanese carrying ammunition for storage.

There were several anti-aircraft guns close to the camp and they could be seen from the camp.

They also constructed concrete pillboxes and machine gun emplacements, designed to impede a possible invasion. One of these machine gun emplacements was not over ten feet from one of the internment camp buildings.

On the other side of the compound they had cavalrymen and their horses stationed.

The Japanese would not permit us to mark internment camp buildings, so that we would not be subject to raids until a week before the end of the war, when they permitted us to mark them with white crosses. They stated that such marks on the buildings would serve as a guide to the American airmen.

Q Is there anything else pertinent to this inquiry which you care to state?

- A No.

/s/ John Robert de Lara

John Robert de Lara, Civilian

State of New York)

) SS

County of New York)

I, John Robert de Lara, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ John Robert de Lara

John Robert de Lara, Civilian

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of February 1946.

/s/ James E. Leising

James E. Leising, 2nd Lt. CMP
Summary Court

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Arthur F. Vedder, Special Agent, SIC, 1251st SCU, FPI, SID, certify that John Robert de Lara, Civilian, personally appeared before me on 15 February 1946, and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

Place: New York City

Date: 18 February 1946

/s/ Arthur F. Vedder

Arthur F. Vedder, Special Agent, SIC
1251st SCU, Foreign Positive Intelligence
Section, Security & Intelligence
Division, Headquarters, Second Service
Command, 1270 Avenue of the Americas,
New York 20, N. Y.

民間人ジョーン・ロバーツ・デ・ラーラノ證言カラノ抜萃

ニューヨーク州ニューヨーク市二十區マニハニー、ネグアメリカ一二七〇番地

昭和二十一年（一九四六年）二月十五日

問、貴方ノ姓名、職業、原籍ヲ言ツテ下サイ。

答、ジョーン・ロバーツ・デ・ラーラ、日本人ニ抑留サレル前ハ支那上海ノ「アメリカ」外國保險協會ノ副支配人デシタ。現在ハ「スタンダード」石油會社ニ勤務、
「蘭領西印度」支店ニ廻サレル管デス。原籍ハ「カリフォルニア」州「アルタデナ」市北「エル・モリノ」街二三四六番地デス。

問、貴方ハ日本ノ民間抑留者ダツタノデスカ？

答、サウデス。一九四三年ノ二月十五日、日本人ニ拘引サレ上海ノ河向ヒノ支那ノ「フータンダ」ニアル日本人たちノ所謂「ブータング」市民集落地ニ監禁サレマシタ。昭和二十年（一九四五）年八月終戦トナツテ釋放サレル迄ソコニキマシタ。

問、「ブータング」抑留所デハドンナ宿所ヲアテガハレマシタカ？

答、宿所トシテ私たちは「英米煙草會社」ノ所在シテキタ以前煙草ノ倉庫ダツタ所ガ割當テラレマシタ。コノ建物ハ前ニコノ會社ガ煙草ノ貯藏

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ニハ不適當デモアリ、安全デナイトケチラツケ
タ所デス。非常ニ古イ建築物デス。

問、日本人ハソノ建物ヲ宿所向キニ諸式ラツケテク
レマシタカ。

答、イヤ、私タチガソコヘ移ツタ時ニハ空ツボノ建
物デシタ。寢具トカ家具トカニ關スル持物ハミ
ナ私タチデ持チ込ンダノデス。

問、コノ宿所ニドンナ衛生設備ガアリマシタカ？

答、ソノ點ハソレ程事情ハ悪クハアリマセンデシタ
二室ニ約二百人程割當テラレテキタガ、二室ニ
ツキ三ツノ便所ガアリマシタ。澤山ノ人々が食
中毒ヲオコシタリ、色ンナ消化不良ニ悩マサレ
タ時ハコレデハ大變困ツタ情況ヲ呈シマシタ。

問、入浴ノ設備ハ出來テキマシタカ？

答、ホボ一〇〇名ノ抑留者ニ對シテ「シャワー」
ガ七ツ屢々ソノ中ノ二ツヤ三ツハ故障ヲオコシ
タノデス。

問、暖房設備ハ充分ダツタデスカ？

答、昭和十九年（一九四四年）ト昭和二十年（一九
四五年）ノ冬ハ暖房設備ハ何モアリマセンデシ
タ。寒暖計ハ私達ノ宿所デハ華氏二〇度ニサヘ
モ下リマシタ。私達が監禁サレテキタ間、上海
ハ五六十年來ツイゾナカツタ嚴冬デ構内ノ貯水
槽ガ固ク凍リマシタ。昭和十八年（一九四三年）

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3.

ノ冬監禁サレタ最初ノ数週間ハ「ストーヴ」ガ
アリマシタ。

問、コワイノ事情ニツキ日本官憲ニ苦情ヲ言ヒマシ
タカ。

答、エエ、私タチノ宿所ノ代表ガ暖房装置ヲツケテ
モラハウト努力シタノデスガ日本ノ司令官ハ手
ニ入ラヌト申シ渡シマシタ。

問、日本ノ哨兵等ニハ暖房設備ガアツタカ？

答、エエ、歩哨詰所ニ石炭「ストーヴ」ガアリマシ
タ。

問、抑留者ハ衣服ヲ十分貰ヒマシタカ？

答、日本人ハ衣服ハ何モクレマセンデシタ。私タチ
ガ持ツテキタ物ハ自分デ宿所ニ持テ込ンダモノ
ト、「アメリカ」赤十字ガ船二隻分送リ込ンデ
クレタモノダケデス。法外ナ値段ナノデ着物ヲ
買フコトガ出来ズ又宿所ヘ入ツタ時、着物ヲ持
ツテキナカツタ人が澤山キマシタ。チャントシ
タ靴ト温カイ靴下ハ特ニホシイモノデシタ。

問、抑留者ニ支給セラレタ一日ノ食糧ノコトヲ話シ
テ下サイ。

答、最初ハ抑留者ノ健康ヲ保ツダケノ食糧ヲ宛テガ
ハレタガ段々食物ノ量ヲ減ジテ行ツテ終ヒニハ
私タチハ抑留ノ始メニ受ケ取ツタ食事ノ四分ノ
一ダケヲ貰ツテキタ。

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彼等ハ私達ノ主要食品デアツタ米ライツモ切
シテオテ時々私達ニ宛テガツテクレルモノハ、
小麦粉ダケデアリ、ソレデ私達ハ「ビスケット」
ヲ作りマシタ。

問、日本人ガ抑留者ノタメニ十分ナ食糧ヲ手ニ入レ
ルコトガ出来タカドウカ知ツテオマスカ？

答、日本軍隊ガ食糧ヲ補給シ自分達用ニソレヲ持ツ
テオマシタ。彼等ハソレヲ徴發スルコトガ出来
タノデス。

問、抑留ノ最後ノ年ハ一日ノ食糧ハドレダケデアツ
タカ話シテ下サイ。

答、終戦前一年程ハ食糧ハ健康ヲ維持スルニ必要ナ
標準以下ニ減ツテオマシタ。私達ハ朝飯ヲ貰ヘ
マセデシタシ、他ノ食事モ不十分デイツモ、
ヒモジイ思ヒラシテオマシタ。私ハ幸セニ外ニ
一人友達ガオテ彼ガ一月ニ一回ヅツ十「ポンド」
ノ食糧ノ包ミヲ送ツテクレマシタガソレモ、ホ
ンノ四日カ五日シカ續キマセデシタ。

問、コノ食物ノタメニ体重ガ減リマシタカ？

答、普段ハ約一五八「ポンド」アル所十「ポンド」
カラ十五「ポンド」減リマシタ。私ハ多クノ抑
留者達程体重ガ減ラナカツタノデスガ之ハ私ガ
イツモヤセテオマスノデ。背ハ六呎デスガコノ
様ニ十「ポンド」カラ十五「ポンド」モ減ルト

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5.

スツカリ弱ツテ運動が出来ナクナルト言フ状態
ニナリマシタ。抑留者ノ中ニハ六十「ポンド」
モ減ツタモノガアリマス。

問、宿所デノ代表的ナ食事ノコトヲ話シテ下サイ。
答、最後ノ年ハ量價ニハ約珈琲ノ「コップ」ニ一杯
ノ米價ヲ賣ヒマシタガコノ米ハコノ國デ食ベ價
レテキル。精白米デハナクテ掃キアツメノ屑米
ラシクソノ米ハ泥ヤ砂利ノヤワナ異物ガ澤山混
ツテ居リ、ソノ異物ト食ベラレル部分ラエリ分
ケルコトハ出来ルモノデハアリマセンデシタ。
彼等ハ又ヨク、パンラクレマシタガソレヲ宿所
ノ醫師ガ分析シテミルト、大豆粕カラ出来テキ
テソレハ實際上何ノ食品價値モ持ツテキナイモ
ノデシタ。「パン」ヲ切ラウトスルト、ボロボ
ロ崩レルツ時ニハ粘々シテマルデ糊ノヤワニ、
ネットリシテキルノデ到底食ベラレソワモナイ
事モアリマシタ。コレト共ニ彼等ハヨク普通タ
食ノ皿ニ入ツテクル、水ツボイ「スチュー」ヲ
クレマシタ。モシ抑留者デソノ「スチュー」ノ
中ニ親指ノ先位ノ水牛ノ肉ガ一切レ入ツテキレ
バソノ人ハ運ガ好イワケデシタ。夕方ニハ夕食
トシテイツモ定リ切ツタ獻立ヲ受ケ取りマシタ
私ガ前ニ述べタ主要食品ノ一ツガ缺乏シナケレ
バ決シテソノ獻立ハ變ツタ事ガアリマセンデシ
タ。

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殆ど一年間彼等ハ飲物ヲクレタ事ハ全然アリマ
センデシタ。彼等ハ毎月一月分ノ砂糖ヲケチケ
テト支給シテクレマシタガソノ分量ハ食匙ニ二
杯半デシタ。

問、アナタハ個人的ニ友達カラ融通シテモラフ外ニ
何ノ食事ノ補給ヲスル方法ガアリマシタカ？

答、最初、宿所ニハ可成リイイ酒保ガアリマシテ、
コノ酒保デ「アメリカ」賞デ八〇〇弗ダケ食物
ヲ買フコトガ出来マシタ。時ガ經ツニツレ、日
本人ハソレニ關聯シタ様々ノ通貨爲替相場ヲ操
縦シタノデ終ニハ我々ノ八〇〇弗モ酒保デハ殆
ンド何モ買ヘナクナツテ了ヒ最後ノ一年ハ酒保
ハアリマセンデシタ。

問、醫療ヤ醫療設備ハ抑留者ニハ十分宛テガハレマ
シタカ？

答、私達ノ中ニハ四五人ノ醫師ガキタノデ運ガ好カ
ツタノデスガ彼等ガ藥品ヤ醫療器具ヲ手ニ入レ
ルコトハ困難デシタ。彼等ノ持ツテキタ物ハ、
「アメリカ」ノ赤十字ガ送ツテクレタモノダケ
デシタ。日本人ハ藥モクレズ何ノ支給品モクレ
マセンデシタ。初メノ半年タツト宿所ニ齒醫者
シカキナカツタガソレガ歸國サセラレテ、コノ
後ハ日本人ノ齒醫者ガ一通ニ一回宿所ヘ來マシ
タガ、先約シテ待ツテキル人が餘リ澤山キルノ

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デコノ齒科醫ニ會フ迄ニハ九ヶ月待タネベナラ
ストイフ始末デシタ。トウトウコノ醫者ハ來ナ
クナリ、ソノアトラ齒ノ始末ヲサセラレテキタ
ノハ一人ノ石油技師ダケデコノ人ハ日本ノ齒科
醫ノ仕事ヲ見テキルダケデ覺エタノデス。

宿所カラ河一ツ越ヘタ所ニ病院ガアリマシタガ
ソコハ極メテ香ベシカラヌ狀態デ經營サレテキ
ルトキカサレテキマシタ。私ハソノ病院ニハ看
護婦モ居ラズ患者ハ止ムヲ得ズオ互ヒニ世話ラ
シ合ハネベナラナイノダトノコトデシタ。

問、ソノ外ニ押留者ノ待遇ノ點デ貴方ノ説明シタイ
様ナ點ガアリマスカ？

答、エエ、私タチハ宿所ノ近クニ正規ノ軍事目標ガ
アツタノデ空襲ノ危険ニ曝サレテキマシタ。
私達ノ隣ノ建物ニ彼等ノ軍隊ノ宿舍ガアルノヲ
私ハ認メマシタ。路ニ沿ヒ約五十呎ハナレタ所
ニ建物ノ入口ガアリマシタガ私ハソノ入口カラ
日本兵等ノ彈藥ヲ運ンデ貯藏スルノヲ見マシタ
宿舍ノスグ近クニ幾台カノ高射砲ガ備ヘツケラ
レ、宿舍カラソレヲ見ル事ガ出來マシタ。彼等
ハ又「コンクリート」ノ掩蔽部ト高射機關銃ノ
銃床ヲ建造シマシタガ之ハ攻略ノオコルカモ知
レヌノヲ防イダタメニ設ケラレタモノデアリマ
ス。

コノ機関銃ノ銃床ノ一ツハ抑留者ノ宿舍ノ一ツ
カラ十呎以上ハヘダツテキナイ所ニアリマシタ
コノ構内ノ反対側ニハ騎兵トソノ馬ガ配置サレ
テ居マシタ。

日本人ハ戦争ノ終ル一週間前マデ私達ノ攻撃ニ
道ヘナイヤウニ宿舍ニ標ヲツケルコトラ許シマ
センデシタガソノ時ヤット白十字ノ標ヲツケル
事ヲ許シテクレマシタ。彼等ヘコンナ標ヲ建物
ニツケルノハ「アメリカ」ノ飛行士ノ道標ニナ
ル許リダト言フノデス。